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Agenda item 100 (d)

Environment and sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 100 (see A/54/588, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 29th and 44th meetings, on 1 November and 1 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.29 and 44).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.18 and A/C.2/54/L.54

2. At the 29th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/54/L.18), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995, 51/184 of 16 December 1996 and 52/199 of 18 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/54/588 and Add.1-7.

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"*Noting with satisfaction* that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

"*Expressing its concern* at the slow pace of ratification and accession to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which has so far attracted fifteen ratifications,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Argentina for hosting the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which culminated in the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,

"*Noting* that the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was convened in Bonn, Germany, from 25 October to 5 November 1999,

"*Stressing* the importance of a successful outcome to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, welcoming the generous offer of the Government of the Netherlands to host the Conference, and urging the parties to undertake thorough preparations to advance progress at the session,

"*Taking note* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session to approve the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations subject to review not later than 31 December 2001, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be desirable by both parties,

"*Taking note also* of the decision of the Conference of the Parties whereby the General Assembly is invited to decide at its fifty-fourth session on the issue of meeting the Convention's conference-servicing expenses from its regular budget, taking into account the views expressed by Member States,

"*Noting* the oral report of the Secretary-General and the advice on the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations,

"*Noting also* that by paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 50/115 the Secretary-General was requested to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period,

"1. *Encourages* Member States that have not ratified or acceded to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to do so with a view to bringing it into force;

"2. *Calls upon* developed countries to undertake urgent and effective steps to implement their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol through domestic action;

"3. *Approves* the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, as advised by the Secretary-General and approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the functioning of this institutional linkage not later than 31 December 2001, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

"5. *Decides* to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000-2001 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium, entailing twelve weeks of meetings requiring conference servicing;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2002-2003 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene during that period;

"7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At the 44th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/54/L.54), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.18.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.54 (see A/C.2/54/SR.44).

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.54 (see para. 8).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.18 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

7. The representative of the United States of America made a statement before the adoption of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/54/SR.44).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/115 of 20 December 1995, 51/184 of 16 December 1996 and 52/199 of 18 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions relating to the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Noting with satisfaction that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

[1] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

Noting that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] has attracted sixteen ratifications, and encouraging necessary action to facilitate the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol at the earliest possible date,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Argentina for hosting the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which culminated in the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action,[3]

Noting that the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held at Bonn, Germany, from 25 October to 5 November 1999,

Taking note of decision 1/CP.5 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fifth session, stressing the importance of a successful outcome to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, in particular in reaching decisions on the early and full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, and welcoming, in that decision, the agreement to an intensified process of negotiations leading to the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the generous offer of the Government of the Netherlands to host the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties, and urging the Parties to undertake thorough preparations to advance progress at that session,

Taking note of the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session to approve the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, subject to review not later than 31 December 2001, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be desirable by both parties,

Taking note also of the decision of the Conference of the Parties whereby the General Assembly is invited to decide at its fifty-fourth session on the issue of meeting the Convention's conference-servicing expenses from its regular budget, taking into account the views expressed by Member States,

Noting the oral report of the Secretary-General and the advice on the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations,

Noting also that, by paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 50/115, the Secretary-General was requested to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period,

1. *Encourages* Member States that have not ratified or acceded to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] to do so with a view to bringing it into force;

2. *Calls upon* all States parties to continue to take effective steps to implement their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1] in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

3. *Encourages* all countries to work constructively towards advancing the work necessary for the timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and its implementation;

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[2] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3.

[3] FCCC/CP/1998/16/Add.1, decision 1/CP.4.

4. *Approves* the continuation of the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations, as advised by the Secretary-General and approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session;

5. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity[4] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification,[5] particularly in Africa, to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

6. *Encourages* the secretariats of various environmental and environment-related conventions and other international organizations, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties of the conventions concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in their implementation at the international, regional and national levels;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the functioning of this institutional linkage not later than 31 December 2001, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties, and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

8. *Decides* to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000-2001 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium, in accordance with the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

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[4] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[5] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

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Fifty-fourth session
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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 100 (see A/54/588, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 22nd and 46th meetings, on 26 October and 3 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.22 and 46).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.8 and A/C.2/54/L.62

2. At the 22nd meeting, on 26 October, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/54/L.8), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/191 of 15 December 1998 and other resolutions

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/54/588 and Add.1-7.

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relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

"*Noting with satisfaction* that, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Senegal for the generous manner in which it hosted and provided facilities for the second session of the Conference of the Parties,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation also* to the Government of Brazil for the generous offer to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

"*Looking forward* to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought issues,

"*Noting with satisfaction* that an increasing number of countries and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties and on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/191,

"1. *Welcomes* the convening of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, at Recife, Brazil, from 15 to 26 November 1999;

"2. *Calls upon* all States and other actors to contribute effectively to the successful outcome of the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

"3. *Also calls upon* all remaining countries that are not yet parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible;

"4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Convention secretariat was relocated to Bonn at the end of January 1999 and has begun functioning as the permanent secretariat of the Convention;

"5. *Underlines with serious concern* that, although the Global Mechanism started its activities in early 1999, it has not supported enabling activities under the Convention, particularly the elaboration of national reports to be submitted by African States parties at the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

"6. *Urges* the Global Mechanism, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first and second sessions, to mobilize and channel financial resources to affected developing countries that are party to the Convention for the implementation of the Convention, including the elaboration of national reports;

"7. *Welcomes* the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some countries, and urges Governments, the private sector and all interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to make or to continue to make voluntary contributions necessary to ensure that the Global Mechanism achieves its objective effectively and fully;

"8. *Also welcomes* the contributions paid by some States parties, and calls upon all States parties that have not done so to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial

rules of the Conference of the Parties, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

"9. *Further welcomes* the initial contribution made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the Special Resources for CCD Finance Account, and invites the Fund to make available as soon as possible the remaining balance to the Account, in conformity with its pledge made at the first session of the Conference of the Parties in Rome;

"10. *Invites* all other relevant organizations and programmes, particularly the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, to make similar contributions to the Special Resources for the CCD Finance Account, to enable the Global Mechanism to successfully support the implementation of the Convention;

"11. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretary-General, in conformity with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 52/198, closed, on 31 December 1998, the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and transferred the amounts remaining in the Trust Fund and in the Special Voluntary Fund, respectively, to the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund established on 1 January 1999, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

"12. *Calls upon* Governments, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

"13. *Decides* to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001 the conference-servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the fourth and fifth sessions of the Conference and meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2000-2001;

"14. *Notes with appreciation* that some affected developing countries and one region have adopted their national and regional action programmes, and therefore calls upon the international community to contribute to the implementation of those programmes through, *inter alia*, the conclusion of partnership agreements, including consideration of contributions from non-governmental organizations;

"15. *Invites* affected developing countries that have not yet adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes to accelerate the process of the elaboration and adoption of their action programmes with a view to finalizing them no later than by the end of 2000;

"16. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular the developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions, the private sector and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the processes of elaborating and implementing action programmes to combat desertification, including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

"17. *Takes note* of the progress made through the informal consultations aimed at producing a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention, and urges countries from Eastern and Central Europe to take appropriate actions to become parties to the Convention, thereby facilitating the adoption of the additional regional implementation annex to the Convention by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session;

"18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on the outcome of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"19. *Reminds* the States parties to the Convention that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/445 of 18 December 1997, beginning in the year 2000, the Conferences of the parties to the conventions signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or established as a result of the Conference, as well as other conventions relating to sustainable development, shall take all appropriate measures to avoid convening their sessions and those of their subsidiary bodies during the sessions of the General Assembly;

"20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth ordinary session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa'."

3. At the 46th meeting, on 3 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification" (A/C.2/54/L.62), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.8.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see A/C.2/54/SR.46).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.62 (see para. 7).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.62, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/191 of 15 December 1998 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in

Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Noting with satisfaction that, as indicated in paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997, the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was held at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Senegal for the generous manner in which it hosted and provided facilities for the second session of the Conference of the Parties,

Expressing its deep appreciation also to the Government of Brazil for the generous offer to host the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Welcoming the allocation of additional resources to the Global Mechanism by the Conference of the Parties at its third session,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification, land degradation and drought issues,

Acknowledging that desertification and drought are problems of a global dimension in that they affect all regions of the world and that joint action of the international community is needed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought,

Stressing the need, *inter alia*, to integrate strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought,

Noting with satisfaction that an increasing number of countries and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties and on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/191,[1]

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, at Recife, Brazil, from 15 to 26 November 1999;

2. *Calls upon* all States and other actors to contribute effectively to the successful outcome of the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Also calls upon* all remaining countries that are not yet parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of implementing the provisions of the Convention at all levels, including the general provisions and obligations of affected and developed countries;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Convention secretariat was relocated to Bonn at the end of January 1999 and that it has begun functioning as the permanent secretariat of the Convention;

6. *Notes* that the Global Mechanism started its activities early in 1999, that it has not yet begun to fully support, *inter alia*, enabling activities under the Convention, and that resources have been made available to it, and invites the Global Mechanism to effectively develop all its activities and support under the Convention;

[1] A/54/96.

7. *Also notes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its third session related to the first review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism, and, in this context, urges donors, international organizations and the Global Mechanism, within its mandate, to support the preparation of national reports;

8. *Welcomes* the steps being taken by affected developing country parties, with the assistance of international organizations, to implement the Convention and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of society in the elaboration of national, regional and subregional action programmes to combat desertification;

9. *Also welcomes* the efforts made by affected African country parties, developed country parties, international organizations and non-governmental organizations to produce and submit reports for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its third session;

10. *Requests* the Global Mechanism, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and the relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first, second and third sessions, to effectively carry out its mandate of assisting affected developing country parties in the implementation of the Convention;

11. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism to cooperate fully in carrying out their activities as provided for in their respective mandates;

12. *Welcomes* the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some countries, and urges Governments, the private sector and all relevant organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to make or continue to make voluntary contributions to the Global Mechanism to enable it to effectively and fully implement its mandate;

13. *Also welcomes* the contributions paid by some country parties, and calls upon all parties that have not done so to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[2] so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

14. *Further welcomes* the initial contribution made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to the Special Resources for the Convention to Combat Desertification Finance Account, and invites the Fund to make available as soon as possible the remaining balance to the Account, in conformity with its pledge made at the first session of the Conference of the Parties in Rome;

15. *Invites* all other relevant organizations and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other members of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism, to also make contributions to enable the Global Mechanism to successfully support the implementation of the Convention;

16. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretary-General, in conformity with paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 52/198, closed, on 31 December 1998, the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and transferred the amounts

[2] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.

remaining in the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund, respectively, to the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund established on 1 January 1999 in accordance with relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

17. *Calls upon* Governments, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

18. *Decides* to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000-2001 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the fourth and fifth ordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties and meetings of its subsidiary bodies;

19. *Notes with appreciation* that some affected developing countries and one region have adopted their national and regional action programmes, and therefore calls upon the international community to contribute to the implementation of those programmes through, *inter alia*, the conclusion of partnership agreements, relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention and contributions from non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

20. *Invites* affected developing countries that have not yet adopted their national action programmes, and, where appropriate, regional and subregional action programmes, to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes with a view to finalizing them no later than the end of 2000;

21. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular the developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions, the private sector and all other interested actors to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the processes of elaborating and implementing action programmes to combat desertification, including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

22. *Welcomes* the progress made in producing a draft additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of Eastern and Central Europe with a view to adopting it at the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, and invites those countries to continue their efforts towards acceding to the Convention;

23. *Encourages* the conferences of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen the complementarities and improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages among the three conventions;

24. *Also encourages* the secretariats of various environmental and environment-related conventions and other international organizations, with full respect for the statutes of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions

concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in their implementation at the international, regional, subregional and national levels;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as on the outcome of the third session of the Conference of the Parties;

26. *Reminds* the States parties to the Convention that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 52/445 of 18 December 1997, beginning in 2000, the conferences of the parties to the conventions signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or established as a result of the Conference, as well as other conventions relating to sustainable development, shall take all appropriate measures to avoid convening their sessions and those of their subsidiary bodies during the sessions of the General Assembly;

27. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 100 (see A/54/588, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 35th, 44th and 45th meetings, on 9 November and 1 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.35, 44 and 45).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.23 and A/C.2/54/L.50

2. At the 35th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/54/L.23), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

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"*Recalling also* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998,

"*Recognizing* that small island developing States face special challenges and vulnerabilities of both an environmental and economic nature in their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Noting* the significant efforts being made at the national and regional levels and the need for them to be supplemented by effective financial support from the international community,

"*Bearing in mind* the over three hundred projects which were presented for financing within the context of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the small island developing States donors meeting held from 24 to 26 February 1999,

"1. *Reiterates* the significance of the effective implementation of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to the various organs of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, taking into account the areas identified in the review document for priority action, and urges them to take the action necessary for further implementation and effective follow-up;

"3. *Calls upon* Governments, the regional commissions and organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to take into account the areas identified in the review document for priority action, and urges them to take the action necessary for the further implementation and effective follow-up of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"4. *Further calls upon* all stakeholders, in particular local communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to take the action necessary for the further implementation and effective follow-up of the Programme of Action;

"5. *Emphasizes* the need for the provision of adequate resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action;

"6. *Urges* the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant international organizations to work towards an early conclusion of their work on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, and urges the Committee on Development Policy to review the criteria of least developed countries for consideration and decision by the General Assembly;

"7. *Calls on* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to give substantive consideration in its work to the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session, including in its preparations for UNCTAD X;

"8. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development to integrate into its current and future work programme matters relating to the further implementation of

the Programme of Action, taking into account the report of the General Assembly on its twenty-second special session;

"9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of future sessions, under the item entitled 'Environmental and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at future sessions a comprehensive report on the implementation of the Programme of Action."

3. At the 44th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/54/L.50), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.23.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.50 (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.50, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.23 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

6. The representative of Canada informed the Committee that his delegation would have joined in sponsoring the draft resolution before it became a Vice-Chairman's text (see A/C.2/54/SR.44).

B. Draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.60

7. At the 45th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" (A/C.2/54/L.60), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Barbados made a statement (see A/C.2/54/SR.45).

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.60 (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998,

Recognizing that small island developing States face special challenges and vulnerabilities of both an environmental and economic nature in their efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Recalling the Declaration[1] and review document[1] adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly,

Noting the significant efforts being made at the national and regional levels and the need for them to be supplemented by effective financial support from the international community,

Bearing in mind the over three hundred projects that were presented for financing within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[2] at the meeting of representatives of donors of small island developing States held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,[3]

1. *Reiterates* the significance of the effective implementation of the Declaration[1] and review document[1] adopted at the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the Declaration and review document to the various organs of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, taking into account the areas identified in the review document for priority action, and urges them to take the action necessary for further implementation and effective follow-up;

3. *Calls upon* Governments, the regional commissions and organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to support the efforts of the small island developing States, taking into account those areas identified in the review document for priority action, and urges them to take the action necessary for the further implementation and effective follow-up of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[2]

4. *Calls upon* all stakeholders, in particular local communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to take the action necessary for the further implementation and effective follow-up of the Programme of Action;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for the provision of resources for the further implementation of the Programme of Action;

6. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize, preferably before the end of 2000, the work on the development of a vulnerability index, in particular for the small island developing States, which would assist in defining the vulnerability of those States and in identifying the challenges to their sustainable development, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at the appropriate time;

7. *Welcomes* the acknowledgement by the Committee on Development Policy that the concept of vulnerability should be included explicitly in the identification criteria for

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[1] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] See A/S-22/4.

the least developed countries,[4] and notes the ongoing discussions on the new criteria proposed by the Committee;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to give substantive consideration in its work to the Declaration and review document, including in its preparations for its tenth session;

9. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development to consider in its work programme, as appropriate, matters relating to the further implementation of the Programme of Action, bearing in mind the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly;[5]

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[6] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados[7] and Programme of Action[8] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1994, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and review document[9] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Recalling also the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Taking into account all other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

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[4] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 13* (E/1999/33), chap. I.C.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-22/9/Rev.1).

[6] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum) resolution 1, annex I.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[8] Ibid., annex II.

[9] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea[10] and emphasizing the fundamental character of the Convention,

Taking note of the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region of 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States which are ecologically fragile and economically vulnerable and also affected by, *inter alia*, their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, social problems, high levels of poverty and the challenges and opportunities of globalization,

Considering also that the Caribbean Sea area, nearly all of which is separated from the open ocean by either continental or insular land masses, is characterized by a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems, such as the second largest coral reef system in the world, the heavy reliance of most States, countries and territories on their coastal areas and the marine environment in general to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals, the number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national sovereignty and jurisdiction, which present a challenge to the effective management of resources, the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea area for maritime transportation and, notwithstanding the increase in the number of regulatory measures, the threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and from the release of hazardous and noxious substances in violation of relevant international rules and standards,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño Southern Oscillation phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Mindful of the strong interaction and competition among socio-economic activities in the countries of the region for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts made by the Caribbean countries to address, in a more holistic manner, the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea and in so doing to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea in the context of sustainable development,

Noting the efforts of Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further and seek recognition of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance in the context of sustainable development,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea area to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, *inter alia*, by land-based sources in the Caribbean Sea area,

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[10] *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. XVII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.84.V.3), document A/CONF.62/122.

1. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

2. *Encourages* the further development of the integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, which will include environmental, economic, social, legal and institutional elements and will take into account the experience gained, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21,[11] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[12] the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[10]

3. *Calls upon* the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

4. *Also calls upon* the international community and the United Nations system, in particular the relevant agencies, actively to support efforts to develop further and implement the above-mentioned approach;

5. *Further calls upon* Member States to give priority to improving their emergency response capabilities and to increasing their participation in existing mechanisms so as to allow for a timely, effective and coordinated response to natural disasters and for the containment of environmental damage in the Caribbean Sea area in the event of an accident or incident relating to maritime transport;

6. *Invites* all parties concerned to take action, as appropriate, to address land-based sources of marine pollution;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

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[11] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum) resolution 1, annex II.

[12] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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Agenda item 100

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 100 (see A/54/588, para. 2). Action on the item was taken at the 21st, 29th, 36th and 44th to 46th meetings, on 25 October, 1 and 9 November and 1 and 3 December 1999. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.21, 29, 36 and 44-46).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.7 and A/C.2/54/L.51

2. At the 21st meeting, on 25 October, the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems" (A/C.2/54/L.7), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, on the report of the Conference, and resolution 47/191 of

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/54/588 and Add.1-7.

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22 December 1992, establishing the institutional arrangements for follow-up of the Conference,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/188 of 15 December 1998 on implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Bearing in mind* that Central Africa has, after Amazonia in South America, the world's second largest forest heritage, whose natural characteristics play a decisive part in the equilibrium of the entire planet's biosphere and ecosystems,

"*Welcoming* the Declaration by the Summit of Central African Heads of State on conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests, held at Yaoundé,

"*Mindful* of the need for conservation and sustainable management of Central Africa's forests ecosystems, which constitute simultaneously an important natural asset for present and future generations and a worldwide ecological asset,

"*Convinced* that the sustainable management of forest resources can contribute significantly to the economic, social and cultural development of the States bordering thereon,

"*Convinced* of the important role of subregional and international cooperation in the management of forest ecosystems and of combating desertification in keeping with the international commitments entered into by the international community,

"*Considering* that a synergy of international and national efforts is essential in order to achieve sustainable development,

"1. *Decides* to establish a trust fund to provide sustainable support for the Central African countries in their efforts for the management and conservation of and research into forest ecosystems;

"2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. At the 44th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems" (A/C.2/54/L.51), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.7.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.51 (see para. 21, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.51, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.16 and A/C.2/54/L.61

6. At the 29th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/54/L.16), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/7 of 16 October 1998, by which it, *inter alia*, endorsed the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 as a contribution to the overall

sustainable development agenda and invited all Member States of the United Nations to contribute to its successful implementation,

"*Reaffirming* that the convening of the World Solar Summit at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development was adopted and the preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 approved, was a step in pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21, which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are imperative in the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes, *inter alia*, the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology for the application of cost-effective energy systems and wider use of environmentally friendly, renewable energies,

"*Acknowledging* the important role of the General Assembly in promoting the practical implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

"*Expressing its appreciation* of the efforts of the Secretary-General in bringing the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 to the attention of relevant sources of funding and technical assistance,

"*Noting* the establishment of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Energy with a view to ensuring the coordination of the activities of all relevant organizations in the United Nations system in the preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001,

"*Noting* that the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 constitutes one of the major programmes of universal value of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

"*Calling* for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is fully integrated into and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development,

"*Emphasizing* that the achievement of more substantive results in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 will require the more active and collaborative involvement of all concerned parties, including Governments, multilateral funding agencies and relevant parts of the United Nations system,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'World Solar Programme 1996-2005', on measures taken by the various entities of the United Nations system for the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the initiative of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in inviting the executive heads of the competent organs and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"3. *Takes note* of the role that the World Solar Commission has so far played in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

"4. *Commends highly* the efforts of many Member States in taking concrete national actions, including legislative measures, which have resulted in the wider use of renewable sources of energy in their countries;

"5. *Takes note with appreciation* of the financial support that has been provided by some developed countries Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, for the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"6. *Calls upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries based on environmentally friendly renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the investments necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

"7. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to make efforts to promote public awareness activities in all Member States, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private, regarding the strategic importance of the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development;

"8. *Invites* all Governments to encourage the involvement of all relevant stakeholders including the private sector, in the promotion of research on and development of renewable sources of energy within the context of the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in accordance with their respective national policies;

"9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to mobilize adequate technical assistance and funding and to utilize fully existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on concrete action being taken to implement the present resolution, including recommendations on appropriate modalities for the mobilization of resources for the effective implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development' a sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005'."

7. At the 45th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Solar Programme 1996-2005" (A/C.2/54/L.61), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.16.

8. At the same meeting, the representative of Zimbabwe proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 8 of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.61, by which the words "within the context of the implementation" would be replaced by the words "within this context, in the implementation".

9. Also at its 45th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.61, as orally amended (see para. 21, draft resolution II).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.61, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.16 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.17 and A/C.2/54/L.67

11. At the 29th meeting, on 1 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme" (A/C.2/54/L.17), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Also recalling* its resolution 53/242 of 28 July 1999 on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

"*Further recalling* the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened for the purpose of the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122 to 124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

"*Recalling* the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,

"*Having considered* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session,

"1. *Welcomes* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session and the decisions contained therein;

"2. *Endorses*, in particular, Governing Council decision 20/31 of 4 February 1999, entitled 'Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001', which gives concrete support to the integrated work programme of the Programme and endorsement of its new functional organizational structure, and provides for an increased level of funding to the Environment Fund for the biennium 2000-2001;

"3. *Encourages* the United Nations Environment Programme, in close consultation with the respective Conference of the Parties, to facilitate and support coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions and agreements, and to address the scientific and policy analysis of global environmental issues, bearing in mind Governing Council decision 20/18 of 4 February 1999 concerning multilateral environmental assessment and programmatic support to multilateral environmental conventions;

"4. *Takes note with appreciation* of the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, and encourages the Governing Council at future sessions to provide scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice on global environmental issues to the Commission at future sessions and, in particular, to

contribute to the preparation of the ten-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002;

"5. *Welcomes* the progress in the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants with a view to its conclusion by 2000, and encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to make more progress on the other pending negotiations;

"6. *Encourages* the supporting role of the United Nations Environment Programme to developing countries, particularly in Africa through the development of policy support and capacity-building for international environmental negotiation, *inter alia*, through the revitalization of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment;

"7. *Supports* the reform being undertaken in the United Nations Environment Programme, and underscores the need for additional stable, adequate and predictable financial resources to ensure the full implementation of its mandates."

12. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Guyana orally revised it by inserting a new operative paragraph after paragraph 7, reading:

"*Stresses* the importance of strengthening the Nairobi location of the United Nations Centre through, *inter alia*, enhancing the conference service facilities of the United Nations Office at Nairobi".

13. At the 46th meeting, on 3 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme" (A/C.2/54/L.67), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.17.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.67 (see para. 21, draft resolution III).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.67, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

D. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.22 and A/C.2/54/L.59

16. At the 36th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Canada, New Zealand, the Russian Federation and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Linkages and synergies among environmental and environment-related conventions" (A/C.2/54/L.22), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled 'International institutional arrangements',

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 53/186 of 15 December 1998, entitled 'International institutional arrangements related to environment and development', and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, entitled 'Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements',

"*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development,

"*Taking note* of decision 20/28, entitled 'Promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs', adopted on 4 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Emphasizing* that policy decisions under environmental and environment-related conventions are taken by the respective conferences of the parties, which are autonomous governing bodies,

"*Recognizing* the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of these conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the relevant ongoing work on the implementation of these conventions at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

"*Reaffirming the need*, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes through better policy coordination at the intergovernmental level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

"1. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to and permanent secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and to improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages between the three conventions;

"2. *Emphasizes* the importance of the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, including by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, and recognizes in this regard the potential key role of the environmental management group, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 53/242;

"3. *Stresses* the need to strengthen further the cooperation among the secretariats of the various environmental and environment-related conventions and other international organizations, with a view to facilitating progress in implementation of the conventions at the international, regional and national levels by:

"(a) Encouraging greater synergy and complementarity of activities undertaken to implement the commitments under various conventions;

"(b) Identifying possible activities with potential multiple benefits and bringing them to the attention of parties and conferences of the parties in order to promote them;

"(c) Promoting more effective and coherent support from international organizations and financial institutions and mechanisms for national action aimed at the implementation of the conventions, in particular in the area of capacity-building;

"(d) Encouraging further scientific analyses carried out by relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of the conventions and their subsidiary bodies and the United Nations Secretariat;

"(e) Strengthening the capacity of parties to the conventions to participate effectively in the work of the conferences of the parties and other treaty bodies;

"(f) Addressing practical issues, such as more effective information exchange, enhanced awareness-raising, harmonization of national reporting and formulation of integrated national strategies for sustainable development;

"(g) Facilitating a more integrated and holistic approach to the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions at the national level;

"(h) Bringing relevant issues to the General Assembly and relevant intergovernmental bodies for consideration by Member States and formulation of agreed policy recommendations with a view to promoting a more holistic approach;

"4. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the executive secretaries of the conventions, to prepare, on an annual basis, a report on progress in the implementation of the present resolution as well as on areas requiring further consideration by the General Assembly;

"5. *Decides* to include in its agenda, starting from its fifty-fifth session, a sub-item entitled 'Linkages and synergies among environmental and environment-related conventions' under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', with a view to promoting a more integrated and synergistic approach to the implementation of these conventions."

17. At the 45th meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Daúl Matute (Peru), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development" (A/C.2/54/L.59), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.22.

18. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.59, by which the words "under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development'" would be added at the end of the paragraph.

19. Also at its 45th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.59, as orally amended (see para. 21, draft resolution IV).

20. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

21. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Conservation and sustainable development of Central African forest ecosystems

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, General Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, on the report of the Conference, and resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, establishing the institutional arrangements for the follow-up to the Conference,

Recalling also its resolution 53/188 of 15 December 1998 on the implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly,

Recalling further the work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests within the context of the Commission on Sustainable Development,

Noting with appreciation the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaoundé from 12 to 17 March 1999,

Mindful of the need for the conservation and sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of Central Africa, which constitute an important natural asset for present and future generations,

Convinced that the sustainable management of forest resources can contribute significantly to the economic, social and cultural development of the States that border on forests,

Convinced also of the important role of subregional and international cooperation in the management of forest ecosystems and of combating desertification, in keeping with the international commitments entered into by the international community,

Considering that a synergy of international and national efforts is essential in order to achieve sustainable development,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the forests of the Central African subregion, the natural characteristics of which play an essential role in the equilibrium of the biosphere of the entire planet;

2. *Welcomes* the Declaration adopted by the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaoundé from 12 to 17 March 1999,[1] encourages the countries of Central Africa to implement to the fullest extent possible the undertakings set out in the Declaration, and recognizes the efforts made by those countries in this respect, in particular with regard to policy coherence and coordination, with a view to the sustainable management and conservation of the forest ecosystems of the Central African subregion;

3. *Invites* the international community to support the countries of Central Africa in these efforts, including through the provision of financial and technical assistance on a regional basis;

4. *Encourages* the international community, including the Global Environment Facility and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, when considering ways and means

[1] A/C.2/54/5, annex.

of achieving the conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests, to take into account, *inter alia*, the forests of the Central African subregion;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, within the context of the reporting emanating from the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and taking into account other reporting requests under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

Draft resolution II
World Solar Programme 1996-2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/7 of 16 October 1998, by which it, *inter alia*, endorsed the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 as a contribution to the overall sustainable development agenda and invited all States Members of the United Nations to contribute to its successful implementation,

Recalling also resolution 29 C/14 concerning the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in November 1997,[2]

Reaffirming that the convening at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 of the World Solar Summit, at which the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development[3] was adopted and the preparation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005[4] approved, was a step in pursuance of the implementation of Agenda 21,[5] which is a multifaceted and, at the same time, fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development,

Recognizing that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are imperative in the pursuit of sustainable development, which includes, *inter alia*, the provision of financial resources and the transfer of technology for the application of cost-effective energy systems and wider use of environment-friendly, renewable energies,

Acknowledging the important role of the General Assembly in promoting the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

Acknowledging also the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council as forums for the discussion of new and renewable sources of energy and sustainable development,

Expressing its appreciation of the efforts of the Secretary-General in bringing the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 to the attention of relevant sources of funding and technical assistance,

Noting the establishment of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Energy with a view to ensuring the coordination of the activities of all relevant organizations of the United

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[2] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session, Paris, 21 October-12 November 1997*, vol. I: *Resolutions*.

[3] A/53/395, annex, sect. II.

[4] Ibid., annex, sect. V.D.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Nations system in the preparations for the ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 2001, and to contributing to sustainable development, taking into account the recommendations of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

Noting that the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005[6] constitutes one of the major programmes of universal value of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,

Calling for further action to ensure that the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 is fully integrated into and brought into the mainstream of the efforts of the United Nations system towards attaining the objective of sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the achievement of more substantive results in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, as part of the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, will require the more active and collaborative involvement of all concerned parties, including Governments, multilateral funding agencies and relevant parts of the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005,[7] including measures taken by the various entities of the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting, within its mandate, the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in particular its education and training programmes in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, and, in this context, also notes with appreciation the initiative undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of inviting the competent organs and programmes of the United Nations system to cooperate in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

3. *Notes* the role that the World Solar Commission has so far played in the mobilization of international support and assistance for the implementation of many of the national high-priority projects on renewable sources of energy included in the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, many of which are being executed with national funding;

4. *Commends highly* the efforts of many Member States in taking concrete national actions, including legislative measures, that have resulted in the wider use of renewable sources of energy in their countries;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the financial support that has been provided by some developed countries that are Members of the United Nations and some intergovernmental organizations, within and outside the United Nations system, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005;

6. *Calls upon* all relevant funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support, as appropriate, the efforts being made for the development of the renewable energy sector in developing countries on the basis of environment-friendly, renewable sources of energy of demonstrated viability, while taking fully into account the development structure of energy-based economies of developing countries, and to assist in the attainment of the levels of investment necessary to expand energy supplies beyond urban areas;

7. *Takes note* of the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization regarding the strategic importance of the

[6] See A/53/395, annex, sect. IV.A.

[7] A/54/212.

Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme 1996-2005 in attaining the objective of sustainable development, and encourages the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to make efforts to promote public awareness in all Member States in this regard, with the support of international, regional and national institutions, both public and private;

8. *Invites* all Governments to encourage the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, in the promotion of research on and the development of renewable sources of energy, in particular, within this context, in the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, in accordance with their respective national policies;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote the mobilization of adequate technical assistance and funding and the full utilization of existing international funds for the effective implementation of national and regional high-priority projects in the area of renewable sources of energy;

10. *Invites* the Inter-Agency Working Group on Energy to facilitate the contribution of the work under the World Solar Programme to the consideration of the theme of energy by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its ninth session, to be held in 2001;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations, to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on concrete action being taken for the effective implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005, including promotion for mobilization of resources;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include, in his report on energy and sustainable development to the Commission on Sustainable Development, a report on action to be taken to implement the present resolution, including further recommendations on appropriate modalities to promote new and renewable sources of energy;

13. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, including the implementation of the World Solar Programme 1996-2005".

Draft resolution III
Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also its resolutions 53/187 of 15 December 1998 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme and 53/242 of 28 July 1999 on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

Recalling further the results and decisions of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, convened for the purpose of the overall review and appraisal of the

implementation of Agenda 21,[8] and, in particular, paragraphs 119 and 122 to 124 of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[9]

Recalling the Nairobi Declaration on the Role and Mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme,[10] adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its nineteenth session,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session,[11]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twentieth session and the decisions contained therein;[11]

2. *Takes note*, in particular, of Governing Council decision 20/31 of 4 February 1999, entitled "Proposed programme budget of the United Nations Environment Programme: revised requirements for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed requirements for the biennium 2000-2001"[12], in which the Governing Council gives concrete support to the integrated work programme of the Programme and endorsement of its new functional organizational structure, and anticipates an increased level of funding to the Environment Fund for the biennium 2000-2001;

3. *Supports* the proposals for the facilitation of and support for enhancing linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, *inter alia*, by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the respective convention secretariats and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, and encourages the Governing Council at future sessions to provide its scientific, technical and policy information and analysis of and advice on global environmental issues to the Commission at future sessions and, in particular, to contribute to the preparation of the ten-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002;

5. *Welcomes* the progress in the negotiation of an international legally binding instrument for implementing international action on certain persistent organic pollutants with a view to its earlier conclusion;

6. *Encourages* the supporting role of the United Nations Environment Programme for developing countries, particularly in Africa through the development of policy support and capacity-building for international environmental negotiation, *inter alia*, through the revitalization of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment;

7. *Stresses* the importance of strengthening the United Nations Office at Nairobi in its capacity as the only United Nations Office located in a developing country, and encourages the increased utilization of its facilities;

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[9] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/52/25), annex, decision 19/1, annex.

[11] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* and addendum (A/54/25 and Add.1).

[12] Ibid., annex, decision 20/31.

8. *Notes* the increased cooperation and collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) within the framework of their respective mandates and separate programmatic, budgetary and organizational identities, with a view to improving the effectiveness of their work;

9. *Calls upon* all countries to ensure the provision of sufficient financial resources, on a stable and predictable basis, for the successful implementation of the work programme for the biennium 2000-2001;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary resources from the regular budget of the United Nations to the United Nations Environment Programme for the biennium 2000-2001 in accordance with current budgetary practices and to consider ways to further support the revitalization of the Programme.

Draft resolution IV
Enhancing complementarities among international instruments related to environment and sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[13] adopted at its nineteenth special session, in particular part IV thereof, entitled "International institutional arrangements",

Recalling also its resolutions 53/186 of 15 December 1998, on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development, and 53/242 of 28 July 1999, on the report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development,[14]

Taking note of decision 20/28, on promoting interlinkages among global environmental issues and human needs, adopted on 4 February 1999 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,[15]

Emphasizing that policy decisions under the respective conventions are taken by the conferences of the parties thereto, which are autonomous governing bodies,

Noting that various conventions related to environment and sustainable development are at different stages of implementation, and recognizing the role of the General Assembly in fostering progress in the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions and of the commitments contained therein,

Noting with appreciation the relevant ongoing work on the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Reaffirming the need, as stipulated in part IV of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, for greater coherence in various intergovernmental organizations and processes by means of better policy coordination at the intergovernmental

[13] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[14] A/54/468.

[15] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/54/25), annex.

level, as well as for continued and more concerted efforts to enhance collaboration among the secretariats of relevant decision-making bodies,

Emphasizing the need for environmental conventions to continue to pursue sustainable development objectives that are consistent with their provisions and to be fully responsive to Agenda 21,[16]

1. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to, and the permanent secretariats of, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[17] the Convention on Biological Diversity[18] and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[19] to further examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen their complementarities and to improve scientific assessments of ecological linkages among the three conventions;

2. *Stresses* the need for the integrated consideration of linkages, both among sectors and between sectoral and cross-sectoral aspects of Agenda 21;[16]

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of facilitating and supporting the enhancement of linkages and coordination within and among environmental and environment-related conventions, *inter alia*, by the United Nations Environment Programme, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned and, in this regard, supports the proposal of the Secretary-General concerning the establishment of an environmental management group for the purpose of enhancing inter-agency coordination in the areas of environment and human settlements, as stipulated in General Assembly resolution 53/242;

4. *Notes with appreciation* all the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/186;

5. *Encourages* the secretariats of the various environmental and environment-related conventions and international organizations, with full respect for the status of the secretariats of the conventions and the autonomous decision-making prerogatives of the conferences of the parties to the conventions concerned, to strengthen cooperation with a view to facilitating progress in the implementation of those conventions at the international, regional and national levels by:

(a) Identifying opportunities for complementarity of activities undertaken to facilitate the implementation of commitments made by the parties to the various conventions;

(b) Encouraging the carrying out of further scientific analyses by relevant international organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, the secretariats of the conventions, their subsidiary bodies, the United Nations Secretariat and relevant international scientific bodies, in order to identify possible activities with potential multiple benefits and to bring them to the attention of the conferences of the parties;

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[16] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[17] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[18] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[19] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

(c) Promoting more effective and coherent support from international organizations and financial institutions and mechanisms for national action aimed at the implementation of the conventions, in particular in the area of capacity-building;

(d) Addressing practical issues, such as more effective exchange of information, enhanced awareness-raising and streamlining of national reporting;

(e) Supporting, upon request, efforts being made at the national level towards adopting an integrated and holistic approach to the implementation of environmental and environment-related conventions;

(f) Bringing relevant issues to the attention of the General Assembly and relevant intergovernmental bodies for the consideration of Member States and the formulation of agreed policy recommendations, with a view to promoting a more holistic approach;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the executive secretaries of the conventions, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session for consideration under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".